

In the specification:

Please amend the first paragraph (Cross Reference to Related Applications) as follows:

This application is a division of United States Applications serial number 08/905,352, now United States Patent 5,888,038, which was filed on August 4, 1997 and claims priority of United States Provisional application 60/032,195, which was filed on December 2, 1996.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8 at line 26 as follows:

FIGS. 5 and 6 illustrate a preferred embodiment of the floor plate. The floor plate includes a cover assembly 34, which comprises a cover 36 hinged to a top plate 38. A securing plate 40 is welded to the bottom of the top plate and includes a hole 42 therein for receiving the locking pin 18. A lower cover plate 44 is the lowermost part of the assembly and includes a pan portion 46 for being placed in an opening in the floorboard of the vehicle. A seal 48 made of flexible material such as Neoprene is placed between the top cover assembly and the lower cover plate to prevent accumulation of debris in the pan 46 through the hole ~~[[38]]~~ 42. In turn, the pan 46 seals the assembly from entry of debris from below the assembly.